

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Revenue Department Seeks to Return Millions of Dollars of Unclaimed Property to Rightful Owners**

(HELENA) - The Montana Department of Revenue might have something valuable that belongs to you. You may be one of thousands of people who have unclaimed property that has been turned over to the state.

This isn't small change, either. In fiscal year 2011, businesses turned in about \$6.8 million worth of unclaimed property, including items such as uncashed checks, forgotten savings accounts, gift certificates, utility deposits, stocks, and safe-deposit boxes. Owners reclaimed about \$3.5 million worth.

As required by law, each fall the department publishes the names of property owners who had a last known address in Montana. This year's list shows the names of about 11,000 owners who have property that was turned in to the state during the last fiscal year (July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011). The list is published as a 36-page insert in 22 Montana newspapers. The insert will appear once in each newspaper during September, October or November. You can view the insert dates on the department's website at [revenue.mt.gov](http://revenue.mt.gov).

"We like to see property back in the hands of its rightful owners," says Department of Revenue Director Dan Bucks. "If you see your name on the list, don't hesitate to contact the department so you can reclaim your property."

Before your name appears on the department's published list, a business that is holding unclaimed property may try to contact you. These businesses send out written notices between 60 and 120 days before they turn over the property to the state. This is your first opportunity to reclaim your property.

"You have two opportunities to reclaim your property—from the business holding it or later from the state. Either way, millions of dollars worth of property is unclaimed, so be sure to reclaim yours when you can," says Bucks.

You should also be aware that there are some scams related to unclaimed property. If you receive a notice related to unclaimed property that asks for money or requires a fee, the department recommends that you be wary.

In addition to checking the newspaper insert, you can check online 24 hours a day, seven days a week at [MissingMoney.com](http://MissingMoney.com). Montana is a partner with this free national database that lists unclaimed property from 37 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Alberta, Canada. If you prefer to have the department check for you, simply call toll-free (866) 859-2254 (444-6900 in Helena) and an employee will run a free computer search to see if you have any unclaimed property in Montana.

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